

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A control panel of a washing machine, comprising:

- a frame provided on a cabinet to form an exterior;
- a display panel on a front side of the frame to have at least one button formed thereon;
- a display substrate in rear of the display panel to have at least one switch formed thereon;

and

- a switch lever having one end fixed to a backside of the display panel and the other end disposed over the switch, the other end of the switch lever operating directly pressing the switch by receiving when an external force is applied to the button.

2. (Original) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein a lever loading part is formed on the backside of the display panel and the switch lever is coupled with the lever loading part.

3. (Original) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein a coupling recess is formed at the lever loading part and a protrusion to be inserted in the coupling recess is formed at the switch lever.

4. (Currently Amended) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the switch lever has an elastic part is provided at the switch lever attached to the display panel to provide a restoring force for the switch lever to return to ~~return the switch lever to an~~ original state when the external force applied to the button is released.

5. (Currently Amended) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 4, wherein the elastic part ~~circularly becomes curved~~ has a substantially U shape to elastically expand or contract according to the external force.

6. (Currently Amended) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein a button protrusion is formed at a bottom of the button to be brought into contact with the switch lever once the external force is applied to the button.

7. (Currently Amended) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein a protrusion is formed at a top of the switch lever to be brought into contact with the ~~first switch~~ lever once the external force is applied to the button.

8. (Original) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein a bent part is formed at one side of the switch lever.

9. (Original) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein a rib is provided at the bent part for rigidity reinforcement.

10. (New) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the other end of the switch lever is directly above the switch such that the other end of the switch lever directly presses the switch when the external force is applied to the button.

11. (New) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the button is free of contact with the display substrate when the external force is applied to the button.

12. (New) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the button is spaced apart from the switch lever when the external force applied to the button stops.

13. (New) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein the switch lever has an elastic part in contact with the lever loading part at the backside of the display panel to provide a restoring force for the switch lever to return to an original state when the external force applied to the button is released.